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EDITORIAL.

A Marine Biological Station for Canada. — At the Toronto meeting of the British Association, a proposition was brought forward in the Botanical Section for the establishment of a biological station in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. So strongly did this appeal to those interested that the Sections of Zoology and Physiology asked to be allowed to participate in the movement, with the result that a committee was appointed to take such steps as might be necessary. This committee consisted of Prof. E. E. Prince, Chairman; Dr. A. B. Macallum, Prof. John Macoun, Dr. T. Wesley Mills, Prof. E. W. MacBride, Dr. W. T. Thistleton-Dyer, of the Royal Gardens, Kew; and Prof. D. P. Penhallow, Secretary.

In March last this committee, supported by a very strong deputation representative of the fishing interests and of the leading universities of Canada, approached the government through the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with the request that an appropriation be made to cover the cost of establishing such a station for a certain term of years.

According to the terms of the request, the station is to be a floating one, and will be established in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for a period of five years; it will be established first on the south shore of Prince Edward Island, and be moved annually to a new location as required; the various universities and scientific bodies of Canada will be granted certain privileges with respect to opportunities for qualified investigators; the scientific work will be executed as far as possible by experienced investigators connected with the various universities; that while the station remains a government institution, the administration is to be vested in a Board consisting of one or more representatives from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and one representative from each of the leading universities.

The committee received a favorable reply to its request, and the government made an appropriation of \$7000 to cover cost of construction and outfit and expenses for the first year, thus substantially guaranteeing its support for the experimental period of five years.

The Board of Management, as now constituted, consists of Prof. E. E. Prince, Director; Prof. D. P. Penhallow and Prof. E. W.

MacBride, of McGill University ; Prof. Ramsay Wright, of Toronto University ; Prof. L. W. Bailey, of the University of New Brunswick ; Prof. A. P. Knight, of Queen's University ; Rev. V. A. Huart, of Laval University.

It is probable that all plans will be perfected during the coming winter, so that active work may commence with the opening of the season of 1899. It would be altogether premature to discuss the policy of this station, but there is reason to believe and hope that it may establish such relations with kindred institutions as to prove of mutual advantage without intruding upon the special work now carried on in other localities. Its future will be watched with much interest.